

OGC 83-02980

2 May 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

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FROM:

Assistant General Counsel

SUBJECT: Meeting with Joint Committee on Printing Staff

1. On 3 March 1983, the undersigned, Larry Badgley, Chief, Procurement Division, Office of Logistics (OL); Jerome Weinfeld, Chief, Office Management Support, Printing and Photography Division, OL; and Robert Winchester, Chief, House Liaison, Legislative Liaison Division, Office of External Affairs, met with the following members of the staff of Joint Committee on Printing (JCP): Richard Oleszewski, Nevin Brown, and Tom Kleis. The purpose of our meeting was to clarify the relationship between the JCP and the Agency regarding operation of the Agency's printing plant and the acquisition of supplies necessary for its operation. The meeting was generated by apparent increased activity on the part of the Government Printing Office (GPO) to require printing paper procurement actions to be processed through them. Previously they had permitted agencies to procure such items on their own.

2. Historically, the JCP has practiced a "hands off" policy with respect to the Agency's operation of its printing plant and the purchase of supplies. Our purpose was to confirm JCP's continued acquiescence in this policy and to attempt to bolster it, if possible, by citing the Agency's statutory justification for operation of its printing facility.

3. The representatives of JCP acknowledged the existence of the Agency's special authorities in the CIA Act of 1949. They did not, however, openly concede the absence of any JCP interest in our activities. Notwithstanding the absence of any overt concession, the staff, on many occasions, specifically indicated that Agency authorities would allow deviations from Title 44 provisions. They strongly encouraged us, however, to investigate GPO Title 44 paper acquisition services, because they felt that we could receive substantial cost benefits from the large volume purchases made by GPO. They stated that they would provide a copy of the JCP paper specification for our examination to determine if GPO could fulfill Agency paper requirements. We indicated that we could have our people examine the specifications and then get back in touch with GPO if we felt there was an opportunity to recognize a substantial cost benefit

to the Agency when utilizing GPO services. We emphasized, however, that in addition to cost factors we were also concerned with delivery schedules and paper specifications, which in the past caused us problems. The JCP staffers indicated that they thought these problems had been resolved by upgrading testing procedures and suggested that we touch base with GPO on this matter.

4. Our suggestion of an amendment to Agency statutory authority to further clarify the Agency's printing authority was not warmly received. None of the JCP staffers endorsed this possibility as a solution to the problem, probably feeling that it might in some way infringe upon JCP authorities. Further exploration of this possibility was therefore dropped. After the meeting all CIA representatives conceded that it might be a risky alternative to follow in view of the JCP's luke-warm reception.

5. This Office encourages an investigation of the alternatives suggested by the JCP. We are available to provide any further legal guidance if requested.

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cc: C/PD/OL
C/OMS/P&PD/OL
C/HL/LLD/OEXA

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